



NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD
OF EQUALIZATION**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ASSESSMENT PRACTICES SURVEY REPORT RELEASED
FOR SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**

Betty T. Yee, Acting Member of the State Board of Equalization (BOE) today released an assessment practices survey report on San Luis Obispo County.

Once every five years, the BOE conducts a review of each county's property tax assessment functions to determine whether properties are being assessed properly and to identify areas where improvements should be made. Issued as an *Assessment Practices Survey*, the report provides an overview of how well the duties of the assessor are performed and includes recommendations to correct assessment deficiencies and improve compliance with state law.

The BOE found that most properties in San Luis Obispo County are being assessed properly and the overall quality of the assessment roll meets the minimum standards required by the state to qualify for augmentation funds. However, the report provides several recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the assessor's operations. Included among those recommendations are the following:

- Value taxable possessory interests according to Property Tax Rule 21.
- Properly classify underground irrigation systems as improvements pursuant to Property Tax Rule 124.
- Process overassessments and underassessments resulting from a multiple-year audit according to Revenue and Taxation Code Section 533.

The review focused on the quality of the 2003-2004 San Luis Obispo County assessment roll, which contained 171,559 assessments having a total enrolled value of \$25.1 billion.

Acting Board Member Betty T. Yee, of San Francisco, assumed the First District seat on the Board of Equalization in December 2004.

The five-member Board of Equalization is the only publicly elected tax commission in the nation. The Board collects nearly \$42 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and also plays a significant role in the assessment and administration of property tax.

Other Board Members include Bill Leonard of Sacramento/Ontario, Second District, Claude Parrish of Long Beach, Third District, and John Chiang of Los Angeles, Fourth District. State Controller Steve Westly also serves as a member of the Board.

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Note: A copy of the San Luis Obispo County Assessment Practices Survey Report is available upon request or can be found on the BOE's website at www.boe.ca.gov.